

OES NEWS BULLETIN for: CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Governor Schwarzenegger Proclaims State of Emergency in Glenn, Kings, Sacramento Counties Due to Extreme Winds and Heavy Rain

For Immediate Release:
Saturday, January 5, 2008

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Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today proclaimed a state of emergency for Glenn, Kings and Sacramento Counties in response to the extreme winds and heavy rain beginning January 3, 2008. In proclaiming the state of emergency, the Governor has determined that "conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property" continue to exist.

The Governor's emergency proclamation allows the state Office of Emergency Services (OES) to deploy additional emergency personnel, equipment and facilities and provide local government assistance under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act.

It is anticipated that as the storms continue to progress through the state and damage information is analyzed, more counties will declare local emergencies.

The text of the Governor's emergency proclamation is below:

A PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS a series of winter storms that commenced on January 3, 2008, has brought extreme wind conditions, unusually heavy rains, and high snow levels throughout the state; and

WHEREAS the storms are continuing, with a third storm approaching California; and

WHEREAS the storms have caused the closure of major highways; and

WHEREAS homes, businesses and roads are threatened and have been damaged by the unprecedented wind and rain, including flooding and fallen trees; and

WHEREAS the storms have resulted in the evacuation of communities and the opening of several emergency shelters; and

WHEREAS widespread disruption of electrical power and communications has threatened critical public services, including hospitals and drinking water treatment; and

WHEREAS on December 6, 2007, I directed my Office of Emergency Services, National Guard and other state agencies to prepare for the impacts of potential winter storms and to pre-position emergency equipment and supplies; and

WHEREAS on January 3, 2008, I directed all state agencies to utilize all their personnel, equipment and facilities to assist local government in coordination with my Office of Emergency Services, and I also directed my Office of Emergency Services to provide eligible assistance available under the authorities of the California Disaster Assistance Act; and

WHEREAS despite these emergency preparations, the storms caused extensive wind and rain damage throughout the state; and

WHEREAS on January 4, 2008, the Counties of Glenn and Kings declared local emergencies as a result of the storms; and

WHEREAS on January 5, 2008, the County of Sacramento declared a local emergency as a result of the storms; and

WHEREAS the Counties of Kings and Sacramento requested a state proclamation of emergency as a result of the conditions of emergency as a result of winter storms; and

WHEREAS the circumstances of the storms, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of any single county, city and county, or city and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 8558(b) of the California Government Code, I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to these events.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the state Constitution and the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, section 8625 of the California Government Code, HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY to exist within the Counties of Glenn, Kings, and Sacramento.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of my Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the State Emergency Plan, and that OES provide local government assistance under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 5th day of January 2008.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor of California

ATTEST:

DEBRA BOWEN
Secretary of State